Heliconia Stricta Dwarf Jamaican - Plant

This member of the banana family gives an exotic tropical look to the potted container and is a true dwarf in the world of heliconias.

Rating: Not Rated Yet
Price
Sales price R 375

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Description This member of the banana family gives an exotic tropical look to the potted container and is a true dwarf in the world of heliconias. Growing 1-3' in height, it produces a large rose-red inflorescence comprised of colorful bracts from which protrude thin, white-tipped flowers.

The blooms appear on the newly matured growth. It needs a warm growing area above 60°F with good light and plenty of moisture. Once new growth is on its way, cut off the old leaves and allow the next cycle to begin. The blooms make long-lasting cut flowers.

Common name: Heliconia stricta Bucky, Heliconia stricta Valentina, christmass Rose(Europe), Winter rose (australia)
Color: Red
Bloom time: Late Summer/Early Fall, Mid Fall,Late Fall/Early Winter
Height: 18-24 in. (45-60 cm) 24-36 in. (60-90 cm) 36-48 in. (90-120 cm)
Difficulty level: Easy to grow

Planting & Care
The plant perform best in big size containers (8inh or more) or plant them on ground

Sunlight: Full Sun Sun to Partial Shade Light Shade Partial to Full Shade

Soil: It s best that you grow your Heliconia plant in a general purpose potting soil. The soil needs to allow water to drain freely yet also retain water well. If your particular soil is too compact, you will need to add sand or peat moss to the mix.

Water: Heliconia plants should be watered daily. You should do so in the morning and the evening. With all of this water it becomes especially important that the soil you use drains well. Standing water will increase the risk of the plant being attacked by fungus. If you re growing the Heliconia indoors, you need to ensure that it has plenty of humidity. Remember that using your central cooling system saps moisture from the air. While growing the plant in a large pot, you can add gravel to a drainage dish to increase humidity around the plant.

Temprature: It needs a warm growing area above 60°F with good light and plenty of moisture

Fertilizer: Fertilisers used by home gardeners are generally chicken pellets, although complete fertilizer blends are ideal. The only significant pests for gardeners are grasshoppers, scale and mealybugs. Diseases are rare but wet feet, especially in winter, can rot the root system.

Care:

- Remove dead leaves and cut stems as close to base as possible After the first blooms of the flower, cut the whole stalk to promote even more flower growth Your Heliconia will grow best if you use an all around, water-soluble fertilizer.
- While the plant is in the growing stages, you should apply fertilizer every two weeks or so.
- as this will invite fungi and cause root rot.
- Freshly planted rhizomes need oxygen to grow new roots and will die if the planting medium is too dense or too wet.
- After planting, water thoroughly, then do not water again until soil is getting dry.
- Keep evenly moist, but not wet, when shoots to grow and leaves start to unfold.
- If planted in pots, these should be of sufficient size - at least 10 to 15 cm wider than rhizome size.
- Keep the pots in a warm, sunny place.
- When leaves start to unfold the plants can be planted out - again in well drained soil.
- A slow release fertilizer is ideal in the beginning.
- Larger and already established plants require more fertilizing and more water.

Use
Ornamental use:

- The plant is used for ornamental purpose.

Reference:
http://voices.yahoo.com/tips-caring-heliconia-plant-7939406.html?cat=32 http://www.ask.com/explore/how-grow-and-care-heliconia-flowers